



SHIM-007

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Typed or Printed Name	Susan M. Alessi		
Signature	Susan M. Alessi	Date	12-06-2002

<b>AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111</b>  Address to: Box AF Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Attorney Docket Confirmation No.	SHIM007 2056
	First Named Inventor	Hideo Ago et al.
	Application Number	09/608,713
	Filing Date	June 30, 2000
	Group Art Unit	1631
	Examiner Name	Cheyne D Ly
	Title	HCV POLYMERASE SUITABLE FOR CRYSTAL

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated September 26, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given. As such, this response is timely filed. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

## AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 30, 31 and 33, as shown below.

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30. (Amended) A method for identifying a HCV polymerase inhibitor, said method comprising:

determining the complementarity of a test compound with an active site and/or RNA binding cleft of a polypeptide using a three-dimensional structural coordinate of said polypeptide or its part and a three-dimensional structural coordinate of said test compound,

wherein said polypeptide is derived from an NS5B HCV polymerase, has an NS5B HCV polymerase activity, and consists of an amino acid sequence X-Y, wherein X is a consecutive amino acid sequence which is a portion of NS5B, the N-terminal amino acid of X is a serine residue corresponding to